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THE FIVE-FOOT REFLECTOR OF THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

The equatorial mounting of the five-foot reflector, which is under construction at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco, was not injured in the least by the earthquake. An erecting house, with electric hoisting apparatus capable of lifting loads of fifteen tons, has been provided on the grounds of the Solar Observatory in Pasadena. The reflector mounting will soon be erected in this house, and completed by our own instrument makers and machinists, working under the direction of Professor RITCHEY.

Excellent progress is being made by Professor RITCHEY and his assistants in parabolizing the five-foot mirror. A three-foot plane mirror is also being made for testing purposes. Other recent work of the optical shop includes a two-foot mirror of 143 feet focal length for the Snow telescope, a twenty-inch plane mirror for testing purposes, and several smaller plane and concave mirrors for laboratory use. The instrument shop is just completing the globe measuring machine for heliographic positions, a grinding machine for mirrors up to forty inches in diameter, a circular dividing engine, etc.

GEORGE E. HALE.

STABILITY OF THE THIRTY-SIX INCH EQUATORIAL OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

On Saturday, April 28th, Dr. J. H. MOORE and the writer, tested the adjustment in elevation of the 36-inch telescope by SCHAEBERLE's method, and on the following Tuesday, May 1st, I determined the azimuth correction by observations on *Polaris*. The resulting corrections are:

1906, April 28th, level .44″ too low.
1906, May 1st, azimuth+60″

The last previous observations* for the position of the telescope were made by Professor SCHAEBERLE in 1896-97, with the results:

1896, December 5th, level 74″ too low.
1897, April 24th, azimuth+″

It is apparent from these figures that neither the recent great earthquake nor the sharp shock of August, 1903, has sensibly affected the position of the telescope. This result was expected since the telescope followed accurately in all parts of the sky after the earthquake, and determinations of parallel made east, west and south, agreed within the least reading of the micrometer position circle.

May, 1906. R. G. AITKEN.

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*See these Publications, Vol. IX. p. 147, for summary of previous observations.

HISTORY OF THE NAMING OF MT. HAMILTON.

At the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, I was pleased to secure from WILLIAM H. BREWER, professor emeritus in Yale University, the history of the naming of Mount Hamilton. The following account is based on notes made by me during Professor BREWER'S recital of the facts:

In the years 1853-4, Mr. BREWER, and Rev. LAURENTINE HAMILTON, a Presbyterian clergyman, were intimate friends at Ovid, Seneca county, New York. About 1855, Mr. HAMILTON went to Grass Valley, California, as a Presbyterian missionary, and a few years later he moved to San José, acting in the same capacity.

Mr. BREWER was a professor in Washington and Jefferson College during the years 1858-60. In the latter year Professor BREWER went to California to act as first assistant in charge of field work on the California State Geological Survey, then just established with Professor J. D. WHITNEY as State Geologist. Assistant CHARLES F. HOFFMAN was the Chief Topographer of the survey.

The work of Messrs. BREWER and HOFFMAN began at Los Angeles in November, 1860. They worked northward, reaching San José in May, 1861. From local reports, they judged that the mountain, thirteen miles due east of San José, was the highest within sight of San Francisco, and they were accordingly very anxious to occupy it as a point of observation in the survey. BREWER'S friend, HAMILTON, volunteered to accompany them to the summit, principally to show them the trails, with which he was familiar. This trip was made on horseback, nearly to the summit, probably to the point now known as the "brickyard," and the remaining distance was made on foot. Mr. HAMILTON reached the summit first, and called back, "This is the top." Messrs. BREWER and HOFFMAN completed their observations and returned with Mr. HAMILTON to San José.

Careful inquiry in San José and vicinity, and especially of the professors in Santa Clara College, established that the mountain had no name. It was known as the mountain or the *loma.*

At various times later in the year 1861, while Mr. HOFFMANN was working up the map of the region, the naming of the mountain was discussed. Messrs. BREWER and HOFFMAN at first desired to call it WHITNEY, but Professor WHITNEY declined to let it be so called, holding that it was improper for the head of the survey to sanction it. Later in the same year, either Mr. BREWER or Mr. HOFFMAN suggested that the mountain be called HAMILTON, in honor of Mr. BREWER'S

friend, the Rev. LAURENTINE HAMILTON, and the name was thereupon adopted. Professor BREWER is not sure as to whether the suggestion came from him or from Mr. HOFFMAN.
W. W. CAMPBELL.

THE MEASUREMENT AND REDUCTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EROS MADE WITH THE CROSSLEY REFLECTOR IN 1900.

The measurement and reduction of the photographs of *Eros* which were taken in 1900, with the Crossley Reflector, for the determination of the solar parallax, has been in progress at Mount Hamilton since December 1st, 1905. The work is being done by Miss FREDRICA CHASE, formerly of Vassar College Observatory and Miss ADELAIDE M. HOBE, formerly of the Students' Observatory of the University of California, under a grant from the Carnegie Institution.

Experimental measurements and reductions and the preparation of reduction tables for the entire work consumed about three months' time. The definitive measurement is now in progress and the measures of 150 plates are ready for reduction as soon as the places of the comparison stars are available.

The most serious difficulty in the reduction of this work was to obtain sufficiently accurate places of enough stars within the limited field of the Crossley plates. Through the kindness of Professor HINKS of the Cambridge Observatory, enough additional stars are being included in the catalogue, which he is forming for his own and other similar work, to satisfy this fundamental need completely.

May 19th, 1906. C. D. PERRINE.

NOTE ON A CONVENIENT METHOD FOR COMPUTING, FROM ELEMENTS, THE DAILY MOTION IN GEOCENTRIC RIGHT ASCENSION AND DECLINATION.

In Popular Astronomy for May, 1906, Professor HERBERT L. RICE, of the Naval Observatory gives a method of computing the daily motion in geocentric right ascension for an asteroid whose elements are given. After reading this it occurred to the writer to develop other formulae for determining this daily motion, based upon the methods used in LEUSCHNER'S "Short Method" for determining orbits. The same example that Professor RICE used to illustrate his method was used and shows that only about two-thirds as much computing is necessary as in his method.

As the daily motion in both right ascension and declination